G.R.S. IX—5]

Previous references. 1923. File No. 54/23

(CB) Serial No. 42

Later references.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial No. 42

Part B for Oct. 1923

SUBJECT

Report containing certain ill-feelings among the Congress Committee members regarding accounts & money matters

P.C 700
Rec 2

CB 627
C.B. 54-23-42

CONFIDENTIAL.

Office of the District Magistrate,
Bangalore District,
Dated Bangalore, 12th October 1923.

Dear Sir,

I submit herewith for information copy of confidential report No.19 dated 11th October 1923 from the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bangalore City, together with a copy of its enclosure, the report of Inspector Purnachar and Sub Inspector Sadasiva Rao dated 10th October 1923. The speeches of Messrs. Subramanyam, Bheema Rao and others of the present Congress Committee appear to show that they adhere to the constructive programme and consider that the excursion into British Indian Politics about - Nagpur affairs was indulged in by Mr. Razvi and his party, in spite of the wishes of the other party in the Congress organization. There appear to be also allegations by Mr.Ramlal of the present Congress Committee against Mr. Razvi and his party regarding - accounts and money matters. On the whole it appears to me to be better to wait and see developments and watch whether the Congress organization will not by its own action lose the little support it has now from the public and thereby collapse without our having to take any drastic steps.

The Assistant Superintendent of Police will be asked to keep some more men in reserve on the occasions of public meetings of the kind in question to see that the members of the meeting do not go from words to blows.

Yours sincerely,
B Sadasiva Rao

Secret/ 13/10/23
14.10 18/10

K. Matthan, Esq., B.A.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
BANGALORE.

Confidential No.19.

To

The District Magistrate,

Bangalore District.

S u b m i t t e d.

In continuation of my Confidential Report No.18 of yesterday I beg to state that Inspector Mr.Purnachar and Sub Inspector B.S. Sadasiva Rao were deputed to watch the proceedings of the meeting. Their report on the subject is enclosed for kind perusal. It clearly shows that there is a split in the Congress Committee, consisting of the present office-bearers on one side and the ex-officio bearers and the volunteers that have returned from Nagpur on the other side. It can also be gathered from the expressions of some of the members and one of the volunteers that the sums collected towards the Congress and Khilafat funds have been improperly handled and the six volunteer youths were in fact sent by the Congress Committee to Nagpur to take part in the flag fight holding out some false hopes to them.

No doubt the present office bearers of the Congress Committee have been wise in not allowing the speeches of these volunteers but the conduct of all the Congress Committee members was most objectionable in a public place last evening. On receipt of information from Inspector Mr.Purnachar about the confusion among the members of the Congress Committee and as there was likelihood of a breach of peace I collected some men and officers from Kalasipalya and Chamarajpet Station and marched them to the spot to do the needful if there was any fear of the breach of peace, but in the mean time information was received that the conduct of the Assembly had been much improved and that they were orderly and so no further action was taken.

I respectfully submit that this Congress Committee is not composed of respectable and trusted citizens to represent the cause

of Mysoreans. The status of the present Congress Committee is too well known to the public and needs no further explanation. Hardly any respectable citizens of Mysore State takes part in this movement. Only these few members and some - irresponsible boys are making much ado about nothing. In fact no public good is turned out by this movement till now in our State where people are happy in every respect under the benign Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, In fact this movement is doing more mischief than good to our country. The present Congress Committee have shown themselves as unworthy leaders of a national movement of the kind. So far as is known the general public have no interest in this movement and only these few persons are making much of their Congress Committee. By their conduct of the last evening they have proved to be - improper men to run a national movement like that of the Congress Committee of Mysore State where there is no need for it at all. I beg therefore that suitable steps may kindly be taken to put a stop to this movement in future in our State.

sd/- Mahomed Hussein,

Assistant Superintendent of Police,
Bangalore City.

11th October 1923.

"C o p y"

District Magistrate,
Bangalore District.

11/10/23

S u b m i t t e d.

I beg to report that it had been announced at the close of the Congress Committee meeting on 7th October 1923 that there - would be a meeting this evening at which the volunteers who had returned recently from Nagpur Jail would speak on their jail experiences etc, but on 8th October 1923 some hand-bills were distributed under the name of S.Venkatarangiengar, Convenor that a meeting would be held today at 6 P.M. and there would be lectures on the "The duty of Congress Volunteers".

This evening a set of volunteers, with Jeevanna Rao, Ranganatha Rao, who returned from Nagpur and the ex-Secretary Mr.Razvi, his brother and Mr.Raghavan and others arrived with a small National Flag at the maidan, lead by the Convenor. The President, Secretary, Ramalal and others of the Congress Committee and Messrs. Haji Usman Sait Elias Sait and others of the Civil - and Military Station also, arrived before the proceedings began but without the usual flags and Gandhi's photo.

The meeting commenced at 6-20 with invocation by the set of volunteers mentioned above. Mr.S.Venkatarangiengar, then began by saying that they wanted to have a meeting to address the public on the duties of Congress Volunteers and to collect funds and men for the volunteer corps; that the Congress Committee had taken objection to it and refused to help them - that in spite of the objection they had organised the meeting, that they had no President, that he would call upon the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, who was in - Jail to preside over the meeting. At this point Mr.H.V.Subramanyam the present Secretary interrupted and said that Mr.Venkatarangiengar and party can not convene a meeting without the help or permission of the Congress Committee and can not speak in the capacity of - Congress volunteers on the above subject when they have disobeyed the orders of the Congress Committee, that the Committee will not

not be responsible for the utterences in this meeting - that they were no longer Congress volunteers under the circumstances etc. He was followed by Messrs. Bheema Rao, Oosman Sait and others, who also spoke in the same strain. Protests were made by the convenor, volunteers and the ex-secretary Mr.Razvi and others of the volunteers party.

There was a lot of confusion. There were cries of "shame" and attacks on personalities. The volunteer party shouted that they no longer wished to be congress volunteers - that the party opposing the holding of today's meeting were all new comers and Civil and Military Station people, who were not representing the real creed of the Congress Committee and had no business to interfere etc.. Hot words passed between the two parties and this state of confusion continued for about 20 minutes, the feeling of the two parties coming to a high pitch. It was a regular rabble more like a drunken brawl in a toddy shop. I had to interfere and tell them that I will have to declare it an unlawful assembly and take steps against them if they would continue like this and even sent word to the A. S. P's office to send some men in uniform. Some of the audience then brought the parties to some order.

Volunteer Jeevanna Rao , who lately returned from Nagpur spoke for few minutes complaining against the Congress Committee that they had not done anything to them who had, at their instance, given up their education, home and relatives and got themselves into jail also; nor had they done anything to forward the Congress cause - that they have been complaining of want of money for everything - that they have come in the way when the volunteers themselves wanted to appeal to the public to collect funds and men to further the cause of the Congress. Mr. Raghavan . Razvi and his brother spoke in support of Jeevanna Rao and Mr.Razvi's brother added that he was one of the pioneers or the founders of the Congress and Khilafat activities in Bangalore along with Messrs. Bheema Rao, Sharma, Pasupathi Iyer and

S.S.Setlur, that all the rest were newcomers that himself and his party had done much to further the cause of the activities that they did not run away to Vellore or Calcutta like Haji Usman Sait, when there was some trouble - that the Khilafat activities under the Presidentship of Mr.Usman Sait had come to a standstill., that the allegation against them regarding the accounts and money matters made by Ramalal of the Congress Committee was true that the accounts had been properly maintained and the same as well as the money would be settled in presence of Panchayetdars etc.

Messrs. Subramanyam, Bheema Rao, Ramlal and Haji Usman Sait spoke for the Congress Committee party. They stated that the - action of the volunteers and ex-secretaries was against the creed of Congress which only prescribes the constructive programme, that this meeting as first announced, was to speak on the jail experience of the volunteers, who returned from Nagpur, that it was put a - stop to as the subject was one of British Indian politics, which was ~~one~~ out of place in Mysore, and to enter into which would cut the root of the Congress activities in the State, that the volunteers party wanted to have the meeting in spite of Congress Committee's objection to bring in the same subject under cover of a different name that himself Mr.Bheema Rao, Oosman Sait and party were not - outsiders but all members, who have been taking part in the Congress activities from the commencement, that the volunteers party was wrong in convening a meeting against the will of the Congress Committee and that they ought to have done it after obtaining orders from the Central Congress Committee on appeal against the decision of the local committee etc.

The whole proceedings of the evening was only an open quarrel between the two factions and the speeches of Mr.Razvi was an attack on the present office bearers and Haji Usman Sait; of Ramlal and Mr.Razvi and Mr.Razvi's brother on Ramalal and Usman Sait, and - Usman Sait's speech was a reply to the attacks on himself and his

his party Mr.Shamanna spoke last regretting over the state to which the Congress affairs had come to and hoping that there would be some good counsel and these differences would smooth down and the congress affairs proceed with as it was before. Some one of the audience then said the meeting was over and requested the people to disperse and the meeting closed.

From today's proceedings it is seen that there had been some split between the present office-bearers of the Congress Committee and ex-office bearers, who were thrown out at the last general election, that there is some confusion in the accounts and money matters as hinted by Ramlal and M.M.Rezvi sufficient to doubt the bona fides of the expenses said to have been incurred till now, that the volunteers said to have gone to Nagpur were sent by the Congress people with some false hopes that they were disappointed on finding after their return that their self-sacrifice was not recognised as they expected - that these disappointed volunteers set up by the dissatisfied ex-office bearers formed themselves into a separate party to collect funds and do things independently of the present Congress Committee that the public are being deceived in the name of Congress Committee and Tilak Swaraj Fund and that the young and inexperienced school-boys, who have hardly attained the age of discretion are infused foolish ideas of Swaraj and discontentment against the existing form of Government and are turned into good for nothing fire-brands rebelling against their own interests and their kith and kin.

As there is a split among the Congress members and volunteers with strong party feelings and there is every likelihood of a serious breach of peace taking place if such meetings are held in public I think it better that no such public meetings are allowed to be held in future without a license from the Magistrate with proper security being taken from the parties concerned.

10-10-1923. (10 P.M.)

sd/- K. Purnachar,
C.Division Inspector.

sd/- B.S.Sadasiva Rao,
Sub Inspector.

"C o p y"

M.S.R.

District Magistrate,
Bangalore District.

G. R. S. III—3]

ROUTINE NOTES.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

The Enclosed letter received from Mr Bannerji forwarding report of the meeting of the Congress volunteers held at Bangalore on the 10th inst. has been submitted for the Dewan's perusal.

The report of the Sub Magistrate is interesting as there has been a split among the local Congress adherents. Their movements will be watched & a report submitted in due course.

15/20

Dewan

Sir. Thanks. May be forwarded to the Chief Secy for record with this

Callers 4

6/10

To Chief Secy with compliments

16/20 Private Secy

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE IN MYSORE

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Dated Bangalore, 13th October 1923.

Dear Sir

I write to inform you that the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bangalore City, reports that a meeting was announced to be held in the maidan opposite to the Ophthalmic Hospital on the 10th instant at 6 P.M. and some hand bills were distributed under the signature of one S. Venkatarangiengar that a lecture would be delivered on the subject "Duty of Congress Volunteers".

Sets of Volunteers with Jeevan Rao and Ranganatha Rao who returned from Nagpur and the Ex Secretary Razvi and his brother and others arrived at the place with a national flag led by the Convener

The present Secretary and other office bearers of the Congress party with Hajee Usman Sait, Elias Sait and others from C & M Station also arrived at the spot without the usual flags and Gandhi's photo.

The

The Convener said that he wanted to have a meeting but that the Congress Committee had taken an objection and refused to help them.

The present Secretary statedthat no meeting can be convened without the permission of the Congres Committee and that the convener cannot speak in the capacity of a Congress Volunteer when he has disobeyed the orders of the Congress Committee itself.

The Volunteers with Ex Secretary Razvi and others began to condemn the policy of the present staff of the Congress Committee and thus there was some confusion and differences between the two parties.

Some one in the meeting said that the meeting was closed and the people collected then dispersed. Copy of the Assistant Police Superintendent's report, dated 11th instant and of its enclosure are enclosed.

K.R.Srinivasiengar, Esq., M.A.,
2nd Member of Council
Bangalore.

SUBMITTED.

In continuation of my confidential Report No.18 of yesterday, I beg to state that Inspector Mr. Purna Chár and Sub Inspector B.S.Sadasiva Rao were deputed to watch the proceedings of the meeting. Their report on the subject is enclosed for kind perusal. It clearly shows that there is a split in the Congress Committee, consisting of the present office bearers on outside and the ex-office bearers and the volunteers that have returned from Nagapur on the other side. It can also be gathered from the expressions of some of the members and one of the Volunteers that the ~~sums~~ sums collected towards the Congress and Khilafat funds have been improperly handled and that the six volunteers youths, were infact sent by the Congress Committee to Nagapur to take part in the flag fight holding out some false hopes to them.

No doubt the present office bearers of the Congress Committee have been wise in not allowing the speeches of these Volunteers but the conduct of all the Congress Committee members was most objectionable in a public place last evening. On receipt of information from Inspector Mr. Purna Char about the confusion among the members of the Congress Committee and as there was likely-hood of a breach of peace I collected some men and officers from Kalasipalya and Chamarajpet Station and marched them to the spot to do the needful if there was any fear of the breach of peace, but in the meantime information was received that the conduct of the assembly had been much improved and that they were orderly and so no further action was taken.

I respectfully submit that this Congress Committee is not composed of respectable and trusted Citzens to represent the cause of Mysoreans. The status of the present Congress Committee is well known to the public and needs no further explanation. Hardly any respectable Citzen of Mysore State takes part in this movement Only these few members and some irresponsible boys are making much ado about nothing. In fact no public good is turned out by this movement till now in our State where people are happy in every

respect under the benign Government of H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore In fact this movement is doing more mischief than good to our Country. The present Congress Committee have shown themselves as unworthy leaders of a national movement of the kind. So far as is known, the general public have no interest in this movement and only these few persons are making much of their congress Committee. By their conduct of the last evening they have proved to be improper men to run a national movement like that of the Congress Committees of Mysore State where there is no need for it at all. I beg therefore that suitable steps may kindly be taken to put a stop to this movement in future in our state.

Sd Mahomed Hussain

Assistant Superintendent of Police,
Bangalore City.

"C O P"

Inspector General of Police.

Submitted

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There was a lot of confusion. There were cries of "Shame" and attacks on personalities. The Volunteer party shouted that they no longer wished to be Congress Colunteers - that the party opposing the holding of today's meeting were all new comers and C & M Station people, who were not representing the real creed of the Congress Committee and had no business to interfere etc., Hot words passed between the two parties and this state of confusion continued for about 20 minutes, the feelings of the two parties coming to a high pitch. It was a regular rabble more like a drunken brawl in a toddy shop. I had to interfere and tell them that I will have to declare it an unlawful assembly and take steps against them if they were to continue like this and even sent word to the Assistant Superintendent's of Police office to send some men in uniform. Some of the audience then brought the parties to some order.

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appeal

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As there is a split among the Congress members and volunteers with strong party-feelings and there is every likelihood of a serious breach of peace taking place if such meeting are held in public I think it better that no such public meetings are allowed to be held in future with out a license from the Magistrate with proper security being taken from the parties concerned.

COPY

Inspector General of Police.